ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

1. ERIC NUMBER	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW
ED001658	N.A.	N.A.	

4. AUTHOR(S): Cangemi, Joseph P.

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED: Some Counselor-Student Activities That Can Help Decrease the School Dropout Rate

6. PUBLICATION TITLE: N.A.

7. EDITOR(S): N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN
ORG. Madison Area Project
ST. Syracuse, N. Y.
CITY, STATE
TELE. EXT.
INST/LOC CODE

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE: Madison Area Project, Syracuse Public Schools System, Syracuse, New York

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	5

MICROFILM COPY AVAILABLE: YES ☒ NO ☐

COPYRIGHT GRANTED: YES ☐ NO ☒

COPYRIGHT RELEASE FILED: YES ☐ NO ☐

TYPE OF REPORT: PROPOSAL ☒ IN-PROGRESS ☐ FINAL ☐ FOLLOW-UP ☐

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR: discussion

16. INDEXING TERMS (6-12)

counselor-student activities		potential graduates	student motivation
dropout rate	junior high school	guidance counselors	
high school dropouts	potential dropouts	counselor-student programs	
		student perceptions	

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

It is held that the problem of students' leaving school without a diploma is the most challenging problem facing educational systems today. Although more students are currently graduating from high school than ever before, the growing imbalance between job opportunities and educational requirements has struck a disastrous blow to the majority of those pupils seeking jobs who lack a graduation certificate.

Although educators and psychologists agree that elementary school is the place to influence students to remain in school, junior high school is still not too late a time to initiate school-sponsored activities directed toward those who show signs of dissatisfaction with school. By the 7th and 8th grades, students unhappy with school have not yet made a clear-cut decision to withdraw.

Counselors that organize activities aimed at reaching reluctant learners can receive help from students who are potential school graduates. The ability of these well-adjusted learners to communicate with pupils who are considering quitting school should not be under estimated.

After enough exposure to the right kinds of experiences, it should be possible for a potential dropout to change his perception of the value of a diploma. The following are some activities which may infludence students in their attitude toward school: talks with past dropouts, field trips, exhibits, books and pamphlets, plays and skits, speakers, panel discussions, debates, and vocational reports.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OF PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

ED001658

SOME COUNSELOR - STUDENT ACTIVITIES THAT CAN HELP DECREASE THE SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PRINTED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

By: Joseph P. Cangemi, Vocational Coordinator

Madison Area Project
Syracuse Public Schools System

SOME COUNSELOR - STUDENT ACTIVITIES THAT CAN HELP DECREASE THE SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

The problem of students leaving school without a diploma is the most challenging our educational systems face today. Although more students are currently graduating from high school than ever before in this nation's history, the growing imbalance between job opportunities and educational requirements, to say nothing about the effects of automation, have more than struck a disastrous blow to the great majority of those pupils who go seeking jobs without a graduation certificate. For them the many roads to advancement and increased responsibilities and financial opportunities are almost closed. Dropouts tend to be hired last and dismissed first; they also tend to secure low-level, low-paying, dead-end jobs. They often get disgusted and drift from one job to another, showing the same instability they did in school. Juvenile delinquency is much greater among dropouts than graduates. So is the receipt of welfare benefits.

Current studies indicate that those who don't graduate from high school tend to have children who don't graduate either. School leavers represent to the United States a tremendous financial and human loss. Financial, because of the dollars these individuals are failing to turn into society as a result of their low-paying jobs and welfare receipts; human, because of the great loss of talent that can never be replaced or used among them. The doctors, lawyers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc., among these students, in the vast majority of cases, will never be realized. This society, nor any society, can ill afford this. It is imperative that we give greater concern to the future of the dropout.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IS A CRUCIAL TIME

Although many educators and psychologists are agreed that elementary school is the place to influence students to remain in school, junior high school is still not too late a time to initiate school-sponsored and supported activities that can be directed toward those pupils that are showing symtoms of dissatisfaction with school. Generally, by the seventh and eighth grades, students unhappy with school have not yet made a definite, clear-cut-decision to withdraw from school. There is no doubt they have dwelled on the matter. However, once the decision to drop out of school has been definitely made, there is virtually little hope of changing it. The time for teachers, counselors, and the students themselves to help those other youngsters that are getting little satisfaction from school is before they consciously decide to withdraw from it. Since this decision is generally solidly formulated by the ninth or tenth grade, junior high school is the last opportunity the school gets to assist those "lost" students who find the academic environment so frustrating and intolerable they have to separate themselves from it to find some satisfaction.

POTENTIAL SCHOOL GRADUATES CAN HELP

Counselors have a big job on their hands convincing those students who are not content with school that leaving it is a step in the wrong direction with serious consequences. To assist them in this endeavor, they may find unexpected success in curtailing their school's typical dropout rate by asking for assistance from those students who are potential school graduates. They are typically those pupils who enjoy school and are considered well adjusted to it. Between the counselors and these students many wholesome activities can be undertaken that may well affect the course of action of a boy or a girl who is dissatisfied with school. Although teachers and counselors are extremely important in combating the dropout problem, using students who are doing well in school is an approach to the situation that is too often overlooked.

SOME COUNSELOR - STUDENT ACTIVITIES THAT CAN HELP

After enough of exposure to the right kinds of experiences, it is quite possible that a youngster planning to quit school can change his perception regarding the value of attaining a diploma and decide to continue on with his education. The following are some activities which can influence students to change their attitude towards school. With a counselor's guidance, they can be done almost entirely by interested students.

A Survey

Learn about the dropout situation within your school, within your community. A questionnaire can be developed for this purpose. The results can be given in both assemblies and in certain classes (English and social studies, for example).

Talk to Past Dropouts

Find out why they decided to leave school. Investigate their experiences in the vocational world without a diploma. Explore the problems they had after quitting school.

Field Trips

Plan some trips into the community to various local colleges, industries, and working establishments so that the students might get some idea of the various opportunities open to them after graduation.

Posters

Art Classes are excellent places to prepare posters which can then be placed at key spots within the school. Themes on the money value of schooling and job opportunities available to graduates are among the thoughts that could be gendered through them.

Exhibits

Information pertaining to staying in school could be arranged and set up in the corridors and homerooms.

Booklets and Pamphlets

Insurance companies, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, local community organizations, and many other sources provide free information on the value of staying in school. A group of students might investigate the possibility of securing such pamphlets and then either they or the counselors could distribute them.

Bulletin Boards

Committees of students might take charge of the school's bulletin boards, or of the bulletin boards of homeroom teachers (with their permission), and place materials on them that might influence a potential school leaver. Cartoons, posters, magazines, newspaper articles and small pamphlets, etc., would be some of the sources of information for this project.

A Resource File

Keep a file of important information pertaining to both graduation from high school and withdrawing from it. This can be developed by a committee of students within each classroom. A certain period of time could be spent organizing this file, and it might be well if some potential school leavers were assigned to it. They might also be assigned a similar task in the counselor's office, where he could supervise the procedure and at the same time strike up some pertinent conversation with them.

Plays and Skits

Themes for these can range from role-playing an employer to acting out the part of an unhappy school dropout. They can be done quite readily in class or at an assembly.

Speakers

The opportunities and ideas are endless. Introducing various types of jobs in the community, wages paid, education needed, etc., can be easily done through speakers. This usually strikes up a lot of motivation. Jobs other than professional should be represented. This could take place in individual classes to coincide with a specific curriculum or at a total school assembly. Industry, business, the Army, Navy, Air Force, the Government, etc., would be only to happy to send speakers.

Panel Discussions

Explore the why's involved in staying in school and the don'ts of dropping out by letting the students themselves discuss the issue.

Debates

Representing the side of the graduates and the side of the dropouts, a debate on the value of staying in school or withdrawing from it can be initiated. This is an excellent project for an English or social studies class.

Slides and Motion Pictures

There are several good films that depict the unhappy situation of a student after leaving school. The New York State Employment Service's " When I'm Old Enough, Good-bye" is an excellent example of one such film. There are many others. Slides could show the various types of jobs within a community, as well as local people on the jobs. Ideas concerning why an education is important today can be transmitted with great facility through this media.

Vocational Reports

Areas of interest may well serve to motivate students to discover some concern for a particular job previously unknown to them. They could develop reports regarding these jobs on their own or as part of a class assignment. They could start by investigating jobs to their liking or they could be assigned specific jobs for looking up. They should report and discuss their finding in class. Each job report and description completed by a pupil should have his name on it. These reports can be collected, mimeographed, bound together and passed out to the rest of the class and possibly even the student body. They can also be placed in the periodical section of the school library where other students might see them, and hence feelings of prestige and achievement might grow out of such a project - something all students need. The reports might

come out quarterly and be given the title, "The Vocational Quarterly". Each student's name found in the reports would be of unquestionable psychological value, besides the worth of the report itself.

An Advisory Board of Students

After studying the dropout situation within a school, an advisory board representing the student body could report on what the school can do to assist potential dropouts.

School Clubs and Activities

School clubs should be encouraged to ask potential school dropouts to become members of their organizations. Student representatives could easily handle this task.

Part-Time Jobs

A listing of part-time, after-school jobs in the community can be prepared through the joint efforts of a group of students and a counselor. Potential school leavers often respond more positively to school when they have had some after-school work experiences and the opportunity to earn some money.

SUMMARY

Counselors that organize activities aimed at reaching reluctant learners can receive a great deal of help from those students who are potential school graduates. The ability of these well-adjusted learners to communicate with pupils who are thinking about quitting school or who are unsure of the value of a high school diploma cannot be underestimated. Heretofore, within the school, teachers, counselors, and administrators generally concerned themselves with the seriousness of the school dropout problem. If the present dropout rate is to be positively affected, then it must be viewed as a total school problem, and the students themselves must be utilized in the solution to the problem. Well-adjusted learners in the same school as maladjusted learners must be involved if we are to remedy the situation. The initiative, energy and ingenuity they have to offer cannot be overlooked.